

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08 /089 W
-----241749 030026 /46

R 241652Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5898
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03401

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO STORIES OF BRANDT-CIA
CONNECTION

REF: (A) BONN 3204; (B) BONN 3132; (C) MUNICH 497

BEGIN SUMMARY. STORIES OF A BRANDT-CIA CONNECTION CONTINUE TO GET LOW-KEY MEDIA ATTENTION IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE PRESS REPORTS FEBRUARY 24 THAT BRANDT HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH "SATISFIES" HIM. SEVERAL CDU/CSU DEPUTIES HAVE DEMAND-
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ED THAT BONN ASK WASHINGTON FOR "DOCUMENTS" BEARING ON CHARGES THAT BRANDT TOOK CIA MONEY, BUT THE OPPOSITION HAS SO FAR NOT MADE A BIG ISSUE OUT OF THE BRANDT-CIA STORY. SPD AND FDP SPOKESMEN HAVE DOWNPLAYED THE AFFAIR. PRESS COMMENTARIES ARE FEW. END SUMMARY.

1. WEST GERMAN MEDIA REPORT FEBRUARY 24 THAT SPD

CHAIRMAN BRANDT HAS RECEIVED A REPLY FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH "SATISFIES" HIM. THE PAPERS WRITE THAT THE PRESIDENT SENT BRANDT A FOUR-PARAGRAPH LETTER BUT THEY GIVE NO DETAILS. SOME IMPLY THAT THE BRANDT-CARTER CORRESPONDENCE ON THE CIA ALLEGATIONS MAY BE PUBLISHED. SPD SOURCES HAVE BRIEFED THE PRESS ON BRANDT'S ANGER AND OUTRAGE OVER THE CHARGES THAT HE TOOK CIA MONEY, AND THEY HAVE EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION OVER THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE PRESIDENT REPLIED TO BRANDT'S LETTER ASKING FOR OFFICIAL USG "CLARIFICATION."

2. THE PAPERS SAY THAT BAHR BRIEFED FRG JOURNALISTS IN WASHINGTON BEFORE RETURNING TO BONN. HE REPORTEDLY TRIED TO EXPLAIN BRANDT'S UNUSUAL STEP--I.E., THE DEMAND THAT THE USG REBUT A PRESS STORY--BY CLAIMING THAT (A) THE USG HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT AND (B) THE APPEARANCE OF THIS STORY IN THE WATERGATE-RENOWNED WASHINGTON POST LENT ADDED GRAVITY TO THE CHARGES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE APPEARED ELSEWHERE IN RECENT YEARS.

3. MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION CDU/CSU CONTINUE A RATHER MUTED CAMPAIGN THAT BONN SHOULD ASK WASHINGTON FOR COPIES OF "DOCUMENTS" BEARING ON CHARGES THAT CIA FUNDS WERE PAID TO BRANDT. THEY DRAW THE INEVITABLE ANALOGY TO THE FRG REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS IN THE CASE OF THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR. IN RECENT DAYS, CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG FRAKTION WHIP WALLMANN, DEPUTY FRAKTION CHIEF WINDELEN, AND CSU DEPUTY BIEHLE HAVE ISSUED UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENTS IN THIS VEIN. ON THE WHOLE, THOUGH, THE OPPOSITION HAS NOT LAUNCHED A MAJOR CAMPAIGN ON THIS

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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SUBJECT.

4. PREDICTABLY, SPD AND FDP SPOKESMEN HAVE DOWNPLAYED THE ENTIRE STORY. CHANCELLERY CIRCLES TOLD THE PRESS EARLIER THAT SCHMIDT PLANS "NO STEPS AT THE CURRENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS." FDP BUNDESTAG FRAKTION WHIP OLLESCH CALLED THE CDU/CSU DEMANDS "VASTLY OVERDONE." HE RECALLED THAT THE US HAS SUFFERED MANY "GROUNDLESS TALES OF HORROR" IN RECENT YEARS, AND THAT THESE ARE ABOVE ALL A DOMESTIC AMERICAN PROBLEM.

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5. PRESS COMMENTARIES REMAIN SPARSE. ON FEBRUARY 23, THE LEFT-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU WROTE A LONG ARTICLE ON THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF BRINGING CIA ACTIVITY UNDER EXECUTIVE CONTROL, AND ADDED THAT CONCEIVABLY BRANDT HAD WORKED FOR PUBLICATIONS IN THE POSTWAR YEARS WITHOUT KNOWING OF THEIR SECRET CIA FUNDING. THE PRO-CDU BONNER RUNDSCHAU OPINED THAT IT REMAINS TO BE PROVEN THAT BRANDT RECEIVED CIA MONEY AND THAT, EVEN IF HE DID, HE MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN WHENCE THE FUNDS CAME. THE PAPER SAW THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE RECENT WASHINGTON POST REVELATIONS AS THE TORPEDOING OF THE MIDEAST TALKS. THE INDEPENDENT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG IN MUNICH CRITICIZED THE REPORTS FOR LACK OF SPECIFICS AND DIS-

CERNED "NO DISHONORABLE REASON WHY WILLY BRANDT SHOULD
HAVE ACCEPTED CIA MONEY."
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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